

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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2. Until 1948 Soviet officers could bring their wives and children to the Soviet Zone of Germany. Since 1948 or 1949 all children of school age have had to return to the USSR for schooling, but wives and children of pre-school age remained in Germany. After 1948 or 1949 only general officers were allowed to bring their wives and children of pre-school age to the Soviet Zone of Germany. Soviet officers stationed in the Soviet Zone who were married to Soviet civilians, women officers, or EW could live in special billets with their spouses; such circumstances had no effect on the tours of duty to be served. There were no explanations given to Soviet personnel by Soviet authorities for not freely admitting dependants into Germany.

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3. Soviet officers, when off duty, could leave the military compound; but they had to sign out and had to be back by midnight. The officers had to remain in the vicinity of their compound; that is, they could not go to visit friends stationed in other towns. Officers were prohibited from riding in trolley cars, visiting German movies, cafes, bars, or private houses. (EM could not leave their compound during off-duty hours.)
4. Officers fraternized and drank a great deal, but they obeyed other restrictions on their freedom. Enlisted personnel frequently made their way out of the compound to indulge in fraternization, to sell stolen army food, or to buy liquor. However, most EM were very careful not to be AWOL longer than 30 minutes to an hour. If they were absent more than that, their absence was noticed and a search for them was initiated. The men, if caught, would not be charged with being AWOL, but with desertion and treason.
5. [redacted] following illustrations of the discipline in the Soviet Army. 25X1
 - a. [redacted] at all times an average of two EM were in the guardhouse, usually for drinking or for not carrying out orders in a satisfactory manner. (For instance, they did not clean the barracks as neatly as desired.)
 - b. About 40% of the officers and 5 to 10% of the EM drank excessively.
 - c. During my stay from July 1952 to November 1952, two to three EM [redacted] were treated for venereal disease. 25X1
 - d. [redacted] a direct disobedience of orders, [redacted] frequently orders would be carried out in a half-hearted manner or in more time than was prescribed. For instance, repair of a radio would not be done within the prescribed time. Frequently, privates would curse or use profane language in replying to officers or NCOs, an offense for which they could be and were thrown into the guardhouse.
6. In order to improve discipline GOFG Hq. issued orders (date unknown) prohibiting Soviet military personnel from doing the following:
 - a. Drinking alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, vodka)
 - b. Fraternizing with Germans, visiting German movies, cafes, bars, and homes
 - c. Riding in the same trains with Germans or using German trolleys

[redacted] the EM greatly resented these restrictions; however, they could do nothing about them. 25X1
7. Soviet medical care, food, and PX supplies were considered excellent by most EM and officers. High medical standards were maintained in the Army. Lice and bed bugs had been eliminated. The average EM and officer ate better, was better dressed, and had more recreation than he had had in civilian life. Officers in the Soviet Zone were permitted to buy wearing apparel for themselves and their wives in the Soviet Zone. This privilege pleased them, because they could get items for less money than in the USSR.

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8. The Soviet Army also provided diversified recreation for officers and EM, such as libraries (little patronized because most books were of a political nature); movies, checkers, chess, domino games, musical instruments, dances, singing, and get-together parties.
9. Concerning promotions: it was generally understood that all officers were to be promoted to the next higher grade after three years in grade. However, in practice this did not work, since some officers received earlier promotions because of their personal contacts. Other officers served longer than three years in grade because of lack of personal contacts and because they served in units not having a Table of Organization calling for higher grades. In general, officers were dissatisfied with the promotion policy. EM, however, seemed satisfied with their promotion policy. A private with seven years' schooling, good political background, and a neat appearance had no difficulty in becoming an NCO. Upon voluntary reenlistment an EM could become an NCO, an NCO with officer privileges and pay, or an officer.
10. Military personnel were sometimes released from service early for medical reasons. This happened in the case of one EM [redacted] who was an epileptic. EM would be returned to the USSR for reasons of pregnancy or abortion. 25X1
11. Concerning military pay: [redacted] paid monthly in the finance office, usually between the third and fifth day of each month. [redacted] no ceremony was involved. My pay was 1,250 rubles monthly, 600 rubles for my rank of senior lieutenant and 650 rubles for my assignment. 25X1
- [redacted] the details of deductions and conversion into marks, [redacted] the following deductions were made: 150 rubles monthly for bonds, 50 rubles monthly for taxes and newspaper subscriptions, and 20 East marks for dining room service. [redacted] transfer 400 rubles monthly to my account in the USSR or send it to my family in the USSR. Out of the remaining 650 rubles, [redacted] paid 630 marks. Of the 630 marks [redacted] paid out 40 marks monthly for extra food. [redacted] the conversion rate was one ruble for one East mark. 25X1
- a. Privates were paid 20-30 East marks per month. 25X1
- b. Junior lieutenants received 350 East marks per month for their rank, and 400-1,000 East marks per month for assignment. 25X1

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